May 2003



The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

Calendar of Events

Field Trips, p. 2

Friday, May 2, 11:30 a.m., Corral Hollow/Carnegie State Vehicle Area

Sunday, May 4, 2:30 p.m., Morgan Territory Regional Park

Sunday, May 11, 2:00 p.m., Sunol Regional Park Saturday, May 17, 10:00 a.m., Del Valle Regional Park

Saturday, May 24, 10:00 a.m., **Carquinez Straits** Sunday, May 25, 2003, 2:30 p.m., **Los Trancos Open Space Preserve**

Saturday, May 31, 2003, Calaveras Big Trees State Park

June 14-June 15 weekend in **Klamaths** Sunday, June 22, 2003, 2:00 p.m., **Mt. Diablo top**

Native Here Nursery, p. 4

Fridays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, open 9-noon. Saturdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, open 10-1. Tuesdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27, seed collection forays start from Native Here, 9 a.m.

Native Plant Restoration Team, p. 4

May 3 9:30-12:30 p.m. work party at Wildcat Creek, Tilden Park

Plant Sale Activities, p. 4

Tuesdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Merritt College, Oakland

Membership Meeting, see below

Membership Meeting

Origin and Evolution of Hawaiian Silverswords and Their Associated Planthoppers

Speakers: Dr. Bruce Baldwin and Dr. George Roderick

Wednesday, May 28, 2003, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Conference Center, University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley

Co-sponsored with the University of California Botanical Garden

Silverswords, members of the sunflower family, are widely known to tourists of the Hawaiian Islands for their beautiful rosettes of silvery foliage and spectacular flower displays. Investigations underway for decades have yielded surprising findings that enhance appreciation of the evolutionary change that has led to this remarkably diverse and endangered lineage of plants. This research has special relevance to local botanists because the silverswords have proven to be recent descendants of the familiar tarweeds, a prominent Californian group of mostly annual, summer-flowering herbs. Studies suggest that Hawaiian planthoppers, a sap-feeding assemblage of endemic insects, and silverswords are tightly associated and have evolved in concert on the islands. UC Berkeley botanist Bruce Baldwin and entomologist George Roderick will provide a vivid overview of diversity and share their latest findings. See live plants of the silversword alliance and hear recordings of the rarely heard mating calls of Hawaiian planthoppers!

Bruce Baldwin is Curator of the Jepson Herbarium and Associate Professor of Integrative Biology. His research program is focused on systematics and evolution of the Californian and Hawaiian floras, with special emphasis on the tarweeds and silverswords.

George Roderick is Associate Professor of Environmental Science, Policy and Management and a Curator of the Essig Museum of Entomology, another of Berkeley's Natural History Museums. He also directs UC Berkeley's Richard B. Gump South Pacific Research Station, on Moorea, French Polynesia. His research examines the colonization history of plant-feeding insects, especially the role of plants in insect diversification on islands of the Pacific.

East Bay Chapter CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting will take place in the Conference Center of the University of California Botanical Garden on Centennial Drive, east of Memorial Stadium and west of the Lawrence Hall of Science, above the main campus of the University of California in Berkeley. The Garden gate will open at 7:00 p.m.; the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Please contact Sue Rosenthal, rosacalifornica@earthlink.net, 510-496-6016, if you have any questions.

Upcoming Programs

June-August:

Summer break (no membership meetings)

Saturday, September 20, 3:00 p.m.:

Annual chapter picnic at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden

Sue Rosenthal

Field Trips

Friday, May 2, 11:30 a.m., Corral Hollow/Carnegie State Vehicle Recreation Area (SVRA)

Take part of Friday off to focus on the flora and history of the Corral Hollow area, much of which now lies within the Carnegie SVRA. Steve Edwards of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden will lead this trip with the assistance of Jennifer Buckingham, ecologist with the state parks system.

Directions: Take 580 east from Livermore and stay on 580 past the 205 turn-off to Tracy. Exit at Corral Hollow Road, and turn right onto Corral Hollow from the exit ramp. Go straight on Corral Hollow Road for about 6 miles and turn left at the signs for Carnegie SVRA. Meet the trip leader at the entrance by the ranger station kiosk. Bring water, \$ for parking, and beware of hiking unaccompanied in the off-road vehicle area, which sometimes sees heavy motorcycle use.

Sunday, May 4, 2:30 p.m., Morgan Territory Regional

Meet at the main entrance of Morgan Territory Regional Park on Morgan Territory Road in southwestern Contra Costa County.

To get there from west of the hills, take 24 East towards Walnut Creek through the Caldecott Tunnel to Walnut Creek. Near the junction with I-680, the freeway splits to go north and to go south. Take the north fork, but stay to the right. Exit almost immediately onto Ygnacio Valley Road. Take a right (so you are going east). Stay on Ygnacio Valley Road through Walnut Creek, through open space, and into Clayton. Take a right onto Clayton Road. Go on Clayton Road past Clayton to Morgan Territory Road. (Clayton Road changes its name at some point to Marsh Creek Road.) Take a right onto Morgan Territory Road and follow it 10 or so miles to the park entrance on the left. Morgan Territory Road

continues south where it meets North Livermore Avenue. You can get there from the south.)

We will walk for about 3 hours, and the walk will be moderately strenuous. The area is grassland and oak forest. We will see Indian grinding rocks.

Please contact David Margolies (510-654-0283, divaricatum@aol.com) if you intend to go so we will have an approximate count.

Sunday, May 11, 2:00 p.m., **Sunol Regional Park** David Margolies will lead. The hike is several miles, with several hundred feet of altitude change. Sunol usually has a very good flower display, mostly meadows but some woods.

Directions: Cross the Bay Bridge to Oakland. You want 580-E/to-24-E. Stay in the right lanes but do not take 880-S/San Jose exit. Once you are on 580-E proper, stay on it through Castro Valley and over the hills to the 580/680 interchange. Then take 680-South to Calaveras Road. Exit at Calaveras Road and follow the signs to the county park. The entrance to the park is on Geary Road. There is a fee. The lot is very large. Meet at the footbridge which is the start of the Canyon View Trail.

Saturday, May 17, 10:00 a.m., **Del Valle Regional Park** Meet Mary Ann Hannon at the parking area across the bridge at 10:00 a.m. Bring \$6.00 car entrance fee; free with EBRPD pass.

We will take Black Sage Trail, making a 2-3 mile loop through oak woodland and a bit of riparian and chaparral habitats. It's a bit of a walk to the trail head. We start out under the oaks and then proceed through flowery openings. Native grasses grace the hillside trail up from the creek. Perhaps the *Malacothamnus fremontii* will still have some delicate pink blossoms remaining on its gray-green foliage in the chaparral. And, of course, we'll smell the sage! This is a somewhat strenuous trail. Bring fluids and food for a trail lunch.

Directions: Take 580 east to North Livermore Avenue exit. Go south on North Livermore Avenue as it changes to South Livermore and finally becomes Tesla Road, going east. You'll be going by Concannon Vineyard at this point. Go about 0.5 miles to Mines Road. Go right on Mines and stay to the right when it forks to go to Mt. Hamilton. Go over the hill to the Lake Del Valle entrance kiosk. Pay fee and go straight over the bridge to parking areas on either side of the bridge.

For further information, please contact Mary Ann Hannon at 925-443-5588 or hannon2@pacbell.net.

Saturday, May 24, 10:00 a.m., **Carquinez Straits** Dean Kelch will lead a field trip to several sites along

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the Carquinez Straits, starting from the Carquinez Regional Environmental Center greenhouse, which sells local native plants (if you want to buy any plants, arrive at 9:00 a.m.) The trip will highlight several areas still dominated by native grasses and a small riparian area being restored by CREEC. Species at the field trip site include several native grasses, Helianthella castanea (Mt. Diablo sunflower), Dirca occidentalis (western leatherwood), Ptelea crenulata (hopbush), Oemleria cerasiformis (oso berry), possibly Aristolochia californica (California pipevine), and the most interior locality of Eriophyllum stachaedifolium (lizard tail). The trip will last about 4 hours and entails hiking on some hills (about a mile total). Weather should be warm. Bring water, lunch, and sun block.

Directions: From Route 4 west, take the Crockett (Cummings Skyway) exit, and turn right (north). Exit at the Crockett sign/Crockett Boulevard. Proceed down the hill. Near the bottom, you can see the small greenhouse to your left. A little further on, turn left onto the gravel drive and proceed to the greenhouse.

From I-80, take Cummings Skyway exit, turn left, and proceed up the hill. Just before the crest, turn left onto Crockett Blvd. Proceed downhill and follow directions as above to the greenhouse.

Sunday, May 25, 2003, 2:30 p.m., Los Trancos Open Space Preserve

The park is in southern San Mateo County. David Margolies will lead. A botanically interesting area, with coralroot orchids and much else. The trail is about one mile. Afterwards we will visit some other parks in the area.

Directions: take 280-South to 84/Woodside Road. Take Woodside Road west (up the hill) through Woodside to Skyline Boulevard. Turn left (south) on Skyline and go to Page Mill. Turn left (east) on Page Mill. The park is about 1/2 mile on the left, before any steep downhill. Notice the columbines on the right where the road is wooded. (You can also take 280 to Page Mill and come up Page Mill to the park. If you reach Skyline, you have gone about 1/2 mile too far.)

Saturday, May 31, 2003, Calaveras Big Trees State Park

All day trip led by David Margolies. Meet at 11:00 a.m.

Directions: get on Highway 4 east, either off I-680 in Concord, or off I-5 at Stockton. Take 4 to Angels Camp (it joins with 49 near Angels Camp) and then, in the center of Angels Camp, take a left staying on 4 (and leaving 49). Calaveras Big Trees State Park is about 20 miles from Angels Camp. Enter the park and park at the main lot near the North Trail (close to the entrance

station). We will hike the North Trail, and then the South Trail (if it is open) and visit some other locations in the area. It takes about 3 hours to drive to the park from San Francisco.

June 14-June 15 weekend in Klamaths

Fee, please contact David Margolies (510-654-0283, divaricatum@aol.com) for a flier describing the trip.

Sunday, June 22, 2003, 2:00 p.m., top of **Mt. Diablo** David Margolies will lead.

Janet Gawthrop and David Margolies

Conservation Report

More members are sought to work on conservation issues within our chapter. A few dedicated people are covering several high priority issues/projects including Carnegie off highway vehicle park expansion, the East Contra Costa Habitat Consevation Plan, East Bay Regional Parks Grazing Task Force, Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion, and Franklin Canyon. Members of the Conservation Committee are needed to attend meetings of various agencies and planning groups in order to alert the chapter to developments that could impact native plants.

To become active with the Conservation Committee, e-mail charlid@pacbell.net. Let Charli know where you live, whether you could attend day or evening meetings, and whether you'd like to be part of the Conservation Committee electronic communications. The Committee will meet again this summer. The date and location will be announced in next month's *Bay Leaf*.

The plant science arm of the chapter is ready and willing to assist conservation volunteers by making the data on rare and unusual plants available. Field trips are planned for members to visit some of the conservation "hot spots" too.

Charli Danielsen

2003 California Wildflower Show

The California Wildflower Show is usually held on Mother's Day weekend, but this year it will occur on July 12 & 13, 2003 at the Oakland Museum. The date has been moved later this year to feature high altitude wildflowers of the Sierra Nevada. For information or to volunteer, contact East Bay Chapter president Tony Morosco.

If spring came but once a century instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all hearts to behold the miraculous change.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Driftwood

Plant Sale Activities

Propagating and Potting Sessions:



Tuesdays May 6, 13, 20, 27 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Merritt College, Oakland Landscape Horticulture Parking fee: 50 cents

Everyone is welcome for all or part of our weekly sessions.

Call 925-376-4095 if you would like directions to the campus or information on our current tasks and projects at the nursery.

The annual plant sale takes place at the nursery the first weekend of October.

Shirley McPheeters

Native Here Nursery

Fridays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, open 9-noon. Saturdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, open 10-1. Tuesdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27, seed collection forays start from Native Here, 9 a.m.

Volunteers are busily potting up seedlings from the '02 seed collections. Late Spring and Summer are not the best times for planting trees, shrubs and perennials, but there are some great local annuals that will still be flowering and can be set in the ground to enjoy the bloom and get the seeds for next year! *Lupinus microcarpus* and *Clarkia* spp. are among the annuals available. There is also a fine native plant reference library available to browse and selected publications for sale.

Volunteers are always welcome to join in the work and fun when the nursery is open. Margot could especially use volunteers on Saturdays. Nursery hours are Friday, 9-noon and Saturday 10-1. Voice mail at the nursery is 510-549-0211 should you wish to place an order or inquire about availability.

Seed collecting forays leave the nursery entrance at 101 Golf Course Drive, Tilden Park at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays.

Charli Danielsen

Native Plant Restoration Team

May 3, 9:30-12:30 p.m., work party at Wildcat Creek, Tilden Park

Please join us in pulling Himalayan blackberry, French broom, Ivy, and poison hemlock on the banks of Wildcat Creek at the juncture of Curran and Wildcat Gorge Trail. We will meet at the bottom of Brook Road. From Grizzly Peak Boulevard, take either Shasta Road or Canon Drive to Central Park Drive, and then turn onto Lake Anza Road (as if you were going to the Lake) and then an immediate left onto Brook Road. Brook Road dead ends at Wildcat Creek.

Supplies and gear: For each work party, we ask that you wear long sleeves and pants, a hat, clothing layers and jackets as needed, sturdy shoes, your favorite gloves and bring a weeding/gardening tool. We also have some gloves and tools to lend.

Please note: new 9:30 a.m. starting time. Bring a lunch snack if you want to for post work party socializing. For more information about these or other Restoration projects, please call: Sarah Ginskey at 510-558-8139.

Sarah Ginskey

Membership

Many people helped our chapter succeed in hosting a booth at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show (March 19-23). There was lots of interest in our message and also in our sample of noxious weeds: French broom. Of course, the bouquet of California natives was of even more interest.

Thanks to all helpers, including Holly Forbes, Kelly Kilpatrick, Marguerite Harrell, Sandy Hill, Dorothy Frantz, Staci Markos, Ingrid Cabada, Anna Shopp, Tony Morosco, Adam Holbrook, Lee McCaffree, David Rubenstein, Michelle Harris, Mel Erskine, Claudine Marquet, Jean Circiello, Lee Ellis, Linda Newton, Milo Linaman, Nathan Smith, George McRae, Heidi Rand, Karen Bolton, Tim Milliken, Marci Boyen, Judy Lewis, Ellen Edelson, Jeanette Lopez, Elaine Jackson, Johanna Gendelman, Shirley McPheeters and Naomi Giddings.

Liz Bade, Publicity Chair and Delia Taylor, Membership Chair

Late Bay Leaf?

We are sorry if your *Bay Leaf* arrives late. It can be frustrating. We try hard to get it to you on-time. This is our routine: The deadline for submissions is the Sunday after the first Wednesday of the month. The editor, Joe Willingham, does his magic and creates a handsome newsletter. It goes to the printer. Once the printing is done, about the third week of the month, the 1300 + address labels are applied by members and the copies pre-sorted by zip code. The next day, Holly

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Late Bay Leaf?

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Forbes takes the *Bay Leaf* to the Oakland Bulk Mail Distribution Center where we have our mailing permit.

Then mysterious things happen. Some people get the *Bay Leaf* in one day and others in one month. Most receive theirs within a week.

You can always look on the chapter website www.ebcnps.org and get the latest *Bay Leaf*. It is posted soon after it goes to the printer.

If your *Bay Leaf* is late, you might try this, suggested by my mail carrier. Go to www.usps.com and make a complaint. **Or call ASK-USPS and complain**. My mail carrier says the supervisors are always interested in what comes in the e-mail.

How to lodge a complaint by email:

Go to www.usps.com.

Select "All Products and Services".

From the alphabetized list, select "C", then select "Complaints".

Then select "e-mail us". Describe the problem. It worked for me.

Please help us apply those 1300 plus mailing labels!

We have a *Bay Leaf* mailing party once a month. All hands are welcome and needed. Contact Holly Forbes (listed under Board Members) to join in. She will notify you of the time and place. This is fun and there are cookies.

Delia Taylor

Activities of Others

The Natural History of Mt. Diablo

May 6th & 27th, Tuesdays, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., classroom

meetings room: LB237

May 20th, Tuesday, 12 noon - 4:00 p.m., field trip room:

Contra Costa Campus of Cal State, Hayward (in Concord)

Course fee: \$40 (SCHOLAR-OLLI members)

Instructor: Gail DeLalla

This course will give students an understanding of the natural history of Mt. Diablo, the dominant feature of the East Bay landscape. An illustrated introductory lecture on mountain biota will be followed by a half-day field trip to observe first hand the vegetation and animal life of the summit area. The Contra Costa Campus science labs will be used for viewing plant and animal

specimens from Mt. Diablo housed in the university collection. Gail DeLalla teaches in the Department of Biological Sciences at Cal State Hayward.

About SCHOLAR-OLLI:

SCHOLAR-OLLI is an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) sponsored by the Bernard Osher Foundation and California State University, Hayward. SCHOLAR-OLLI'S mission is to provide opportunities for intellectual stimulation and learning to mature students (50 and over) in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

For more information, Gail DeLalla can be reached at 925-672-5874. Our Program Coordinator Joyce Podevyn can be reached at 925-602-6776 or email Joyce. jpodevyn@csuhayward.edu.

The California Botanical Society

2002-2003 lecture series continues.

May 15, 7:30 p.m., 2063 Valley Life Sciences Building, University of California Berkeley. *Seed dispersal and coexistence of tree species in tropical forests*, Marcel Rejmanek, Division of Biological Sciences, UC Davis.

Field Trip: Point Molate Grassland

Saturday, May 17, join David Amme for a day visiting this unique coastal grassland, home of the Molate fescue. Point Molate is in the rain shadow of Marin County on the Potrero Hill peninsula north of Point Richmond with a spectacular view of Mt. Tamalpais, San Francisco and San Pablo Bay. See a classic undisturbed postage stamp prairie with soil profile and eat lunch on a native bentgrass meadow. The trip starts at 9:00 a.m. Bring your field lens, bag lunch, sunscreen, a hat and water.

Directions: Point Molate is on the Potrero Hills peninsula in the East Bay peninsula separating San Francisco Bay from San Pablo Bay just north of the San Rafael/Richmond Bridge. From the East Bay side, take Highway 580 towards the San Rafael Bridge. Just before the toll plaza take the right at the Western Drive/Point Molate exit. Proceed straight at the first three way fork which gradually rises up a hill curving more towards the north. The length of this road is a bustling parking area for the Caltrans Richmond Bridge retrofit project. As the road descends the hill, park at the parking lot on the right just before the "Point Molate Restricted Area" open gate.

From the Marin side of the Bay, after crossing the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge, take the first exit at the Castro Street/Richmond Parkway Exit. Go straight through two lights on this road. Just after the road crosses under the 580 freeway, take the right San Rafael 580 onramp which heads back to San Rafael. Take the Western Drive/Point Molate exit just before the toll plaza and

proceed to the parking area described above.

Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden

Flora of Santa Cruz Island

Join us on an adventure to California's largest island. With over 90 square miles, rugged terrain and long isolation, Santa Cruz Island is home to many rare and endemic flowers, shrubs, and trees and boasts diverse ecosystems ranging from pine forest to coastal bluffs. Our five-day stay will be at the U.C. Santa Barbara research station in the middle of the island. We'll hike, stroll, and drive to many parts of the island to sample vegetation. Costs include two nights' accommodation at a Ventura motel, transportation to the island, and accommodations and all meals on the island.

Glenn Keator and Joe Dahl. Sunday, June 1, through Saturday, June 7.
Estimated cost \$800.

Dragonflies of the Bay Area

Learn how to identify the 50 species of dazzling dragonflies and damselflies found in the East Bay and then go out in the field and get hands-on experience and practice. The program will begin with a morning slide show and lecture about the species that occur here, with an emphasis on identification and also explanations of their biology and fascinating behavior. Then, in the afternoon, we'll go out into the field in search of Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies). Please bring binoculars (close focus are best) and/or camera with a zoom, and an insect net. Wear shoes that can get wet.

Kathy Biggs. Saturday, June 7, 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden Visitor Center. \$25 members/\$30 non-members. Minimum 8 participants.

Point Reyes National Seashore

Discover new rare plant populations and enjoy the wildflower season in one of California's botanical showcases. Join a group of fellow rare plant lovers for our fifth annual "Rare Plant-A-Thon" at Point Reyes National Seashore.

All levels of botanical experience are welcome. The National Park Service will host this weekend event June 7th and 8th. Free overnight accommodations are available at the Point Reyes Historic Lifesaving Station at Chimney Rock, so RSVP to reserve a space. Please call Michelle Coppoletta or Shelly Benson for details, 415-464-5195.

A **Natural Garden Tour** is coming to your neighborhood. **The Alameda County Recycling Board** is currently looking for home gardens to feature in the 2004 Natural Garden Tour. Would you like to share your Bay-Friendly Garden with other local gardeners?

If your garden is water-conserving, reuses plant trimmings through mulching and compost, provides wildlife habitat, is free of synthetic pesticides, and features native and Mediterranean plants contact Kathy Kramer (Kathy@KkramerConsulting.net or 510-236-9558) by June 15, 2003 to find out how your garden can be included in the tour, or to be added to the Natural Garden Tour mailing list.



Hibiscus lasiocarpus is a rare plant in California, flowering in late summer on marshy river edges in the Great Valley and Delta regions. The large flowers are white with a deep red center. It is known from eastern Contra Costa County, but can be hard to see from dry land. Photo and caption by John Game.

Board of Directors

Elected Officers

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Vacant

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Sue Rosenthal, P.O. Box 20489, Oakland 94620, 496-6016, rosacalifornica@earthlink.net

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Recorded Chapter Information: 464-4977

CNPS Home Page: http://www.cnps.org

East Bay Chapter CNPS Home Page:

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Board meeting minutes online

Chapter CNPS-EB-Alerts E-mail List:

Find out more; email to listserv@usobi.org with:

INFO CNPS-EB Alerts

Membership Application

Name		Membership category:
Address	_	Student, Retired, Limited income, \$20
		Individual, Library, \$35
	E-mail	Household, Family, or Group, \$45
I wish to affiliate with: East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties) Other	(optional)	Supporting, \$75
		Plant lover, \$100
		Benefactor, \$500
		Life, \$1000



Mentzelia lindleyi has attractive golden flowers with darker centers. It is uncommon in our counties, occurring on dry brushy banks in southeastern Alameda County, but can be seen further south in the Inner Coast Ranges, for example along Del Puerto Canyon Road, or as seen here on the east side of Mount Hamilton, in mid to late spring. Photo and caption by John Game.

California Native Plant Society East Bay Chapter P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station Berkeley CA 94705

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